

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-9 and 14-16 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Swale in view of Granberg. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a system and method for providing a call charge information (e.g. total cost of a current call, cost per minute, etc.) in a telecommunication link between the calling and called subscriber at the called subscriber's side. The calling subscriber uses a first terminal which is connected to a first local telecommunication exchange. The second subscriber uses a second terminal which is connected to a second local telecommunication exchange. Call charges arising for a telecommunication link are determined in the first local telecommunication exchange (calling subscriber's side). Accordingly, the first local telecommunication exchange generates a message which holds the corresponding call charge information (i.e. charging tariff, add-on charge, charging acknowledgement). The message is sent to the to the second local telecommunication exchange (called subscriber's side). The call charge information is configured such that it can be used in real time during the actual telecommunication link at the called subscriber's side, e.g. for reversed-charging, advice-of-charge or subscriber credit limit supervision for the called subscriber. The call charge information may also create a call charge account for the called subscriber in real time. Significantly, the call charge information is sent as a message from the first local telecommunication exchange of the calling subscriber to the second local telecommunication exchange of the called subscriber. Thus, the call charge can be calculated correctly in the second local telecommunication exchange (called subscriber's side) based on the call charge information sent. For sending the call charge information to the second telecommunication exchange an APM ISUP message can be used.

Swale discloses a method for telecommunications charging which offers reverse charging where two parties are connected to different local exchanges (see, col. 6, lns. 21-40). For reverse charging the A party dials a certain code which triggers a signal to be sent from exchange A to exchange B. The signal names the B-party as calling party and also includes the necessary details for exchange B to set up its own Call Detail Record. The Call Detail Record is a file which is stored

in the local exchange and includes information about all the calls passing through the local exchange. The Call Detail Record is normally generated at the end of a call and it is processed in an operation support system (e.g. billing center) and is the basis for the bill which is sent to each subscriber. However, a Call Detail Record cannot be used for providing call charge information in real time or for offering the called subscriber features such as Advice of Charge, by which the actual call cost are displayed on the subscriber's terminal or such as Subscriber Credit Limit Supervision by which the capability is provided of not allowing the accruing costs to exceed the upper limit by terminating the telephone call. Hence, Swale fails to disclose any real time features offered to the called subscriber (B-party), as required by the claimed invention. Also, there is no disclosure of the determination of threshold values, which are compared to an upper limit for the call charges to be taken over by the called party. Rather, Swale only discloses that an announcement is played to the B-party in case of reverse charging which also announces the rate (cost per minute) of the call.

Granberg discloses a method and apparatus for providing advice of charge parameters for mobile radio telephone calls. Advice of charge (AoC) is a feature used in ISDN, and mobile networks. AoC offers the subscriber detailed information on call charges of a call, before, during or immediately after the call- shown at the subscriber's device (e.g. display of the cellular phone, etc.). Hence, the call charge information has to be available at the subscriber's side (e.g. local exchange) in real time. Normally, the exchange sends a multiplier per rate unit (e.g. minute) as well as the cost of one rate unit (e.g. unit) to the subscriber's device. Since Swale only discloses using Call Detail records, which are generated at the end of a call, Applicant's respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that the charge band reads on the AoC parameters in Granberg. In contrast, a charge band is a code allocated to certain types of calls (e.g. there is a certain charge band used for local call; there is a certain charge band used for long distance calls within the same country, there is a certain charge band used in case a premium rate service is used, etc.), but for calculating the cost of a certain call the charge band is mapped to the rate in the billing center. So, the charge band only indicates the category of call costs and cannot be used for real time call charge calculation, as necessary for AoC. Nor is there any disclosure of a subscriber credit limit supervision, as required in the claimed invention.

Since the recited structure and method are not disclosed by the applied prior art (either alone or in combination), claims 1, 6-9 and 14-16 are patentable.

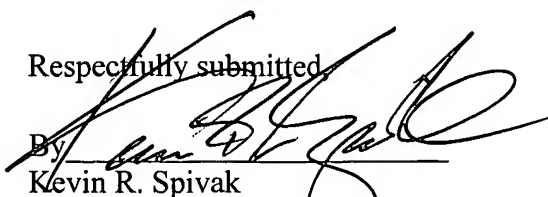
Claims 2-5 and 10-13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Swale in view of Granberg further in view of Lampola and/or Fabritius. The rejections are respectfully traversed for the same reasons presented in the arguments above, and since neither Lampola nor Fabritius disclose the claimed features.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122020600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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